

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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21

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 923

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0508

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, BU

SUBJECT: THE LAST OUTPOST

REF: SOFIA 0482

UNDERSTAND YOU WILL BE ACCOMPANYING ELLIOT RICHARDSON ON A TRIP TO BUCHAREST IN JUNE. THIS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO STOP OFF BRIEFLY IN SOFIA, WITH OR WITHOUT ELLIOT. THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY VISITS TO BUCHAREST AND BELGRADE BY PRESIDENTS, SECRETARIES OF STATE AND OTHER CABINET MEMBERS THAT THERE REALLY IS NO REASON TO FEAR THAT A STOPOVER IN SOFIA WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS ACCORDING BULGARIA EQUAL TREATMENT (WHICH IT DOES NOT DESERVE). IF YOU COME ALONE, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU SPEND ONE FULL DAY HERE, BUT IF BREVITY WOULD BE A SELLING POINT WITH ELLIOT, A HALF DAY WOULD SUFFICE TO SHOW THE FLAG AND HAVE ONE OR TWO SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS WHICH WOULD BE EXCEEDINGLY USEFUL. THERE IS ENOUGH BUSINESS TO TRANSACT TO JUSTIFY SUCH A VISIT. IN FACT, YOUR COMING HERE WOULD FILL A BAD LACUNA TO WHICH I HAVE REFERRED IN OUR ANNUAL ASSESSMENT. REGARDS.
HERZ

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